

JUL 27 2007

REMARKS

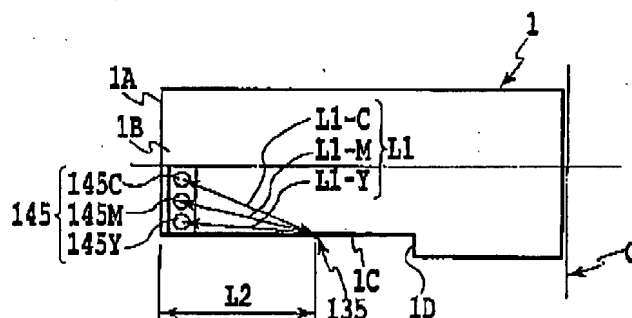
This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 27, 2007. Claims 1 to 17 are in the application, of which Claim 1 remains the sole independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action entered a rejection of all claims based on art, primarily over U.S. Patent 5,500,664 (Suzuki), U.S. Patent 5,552,816 (Oda), U.S. Patent 5,619,237 (Inoue), or U.S. Patent 6,908,182 (Nakazawa). The rejections are all respectfully traversed.

The invention concerns the construction of an ink cartridge installed in an ink jet printing apparatus. The ink cartridge is designed for simple yet reliable attachment and detachment to the ink jet printing apparatus, and thus includes an engage reference portion and a joint section arranged in a particular distance relationship with one end of the ink cartridge. Specifically, according to the invention, a distance L1 between the joint section and the engage reference portion is shorter than the distance L2 between the one end of the ink cartridge and the engage reference portion.

One representative embodiment of the invention is shown in Figure 5A and described at page 20. Figure 5A is reproduced below:

FIG.5A



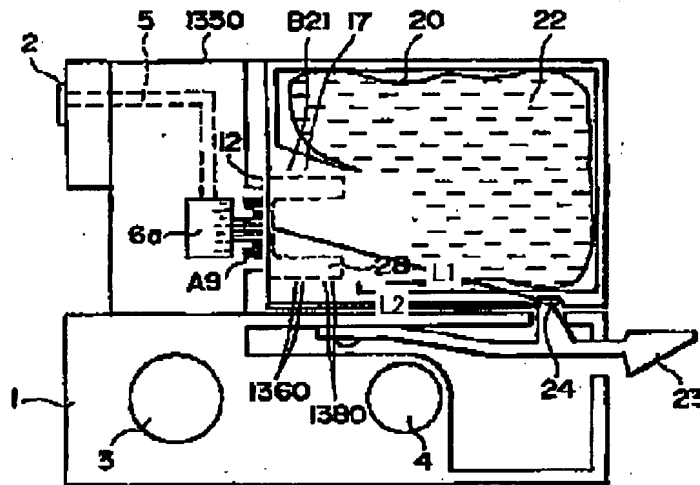
As described at page 20, the distance L1 is defined as a distance from an engage reference portion 135 to a joint section 145. The joint section is a portion connectable to an ink supply route of an ink jet printing head. Furthermore, the distance L2 is defined as the distance between a front surface end 1A and the engage reference portion 135. According to the claimed invention, the distances L1 and L2 have the relationship of $L1 < L2$.

The claims herein have been amended so as to specify that the distance L2 is defined as the shortest distance between the one end of the ink cartridge and the engage reference portion. Thus, with reference to Figure 5A above, although there might be many ways to measure the distance L2 between one end of the ink cartridge and engage reference portion 135, it is the shortest distance L2 that counts.

The structure set out in the claims is precisely opposite to that shown in any one of the Suzuki, Oda, Inoue or Nakazawa patents, in the sense that all of these patents show a relationship exactly opposite to that claimed herein. Specifically, and as shown in

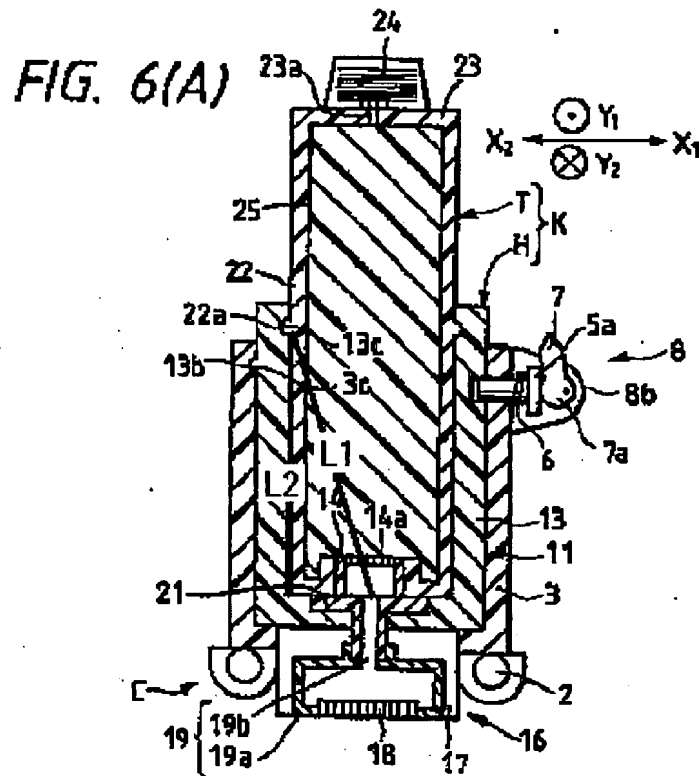
more detail below, in all of the applied art, the claimed relationship of $L1 < L2$ is not met, but rather $L1 > L2$.

For example, with respect to the applied Suzuki patent, a portion of Figure 1A from Suzuki is reproduced below, in which the distances $L1$ and $L2$ have been added.



In Suzuki, therefore, it is clear that the distances $L1$ and $L2$ have a relationship of $L1 > L2$, which is precisely opposite to the claimed relationship of $L1 < L2$.

Likewise, Figure 6A of Oda is reproduced below, in which distances $L1$ and $L2$ have been added:



In Oda, therefore, it is clear that the distances $L1$ and $L2$ have a relationship of $L1 > L2$, which is precisely opposite to the claimed relationship of $L1 < L2$.

Inoue's Figure 14 is reproduced below, in which distances $L1$ and $L2$ have been added. It is clear from this figure that the distances $L1$ and $L2$ have a relationship of $L1 > L2$, which is precisely opposite to the claimed relationship of $L1 < L2$:

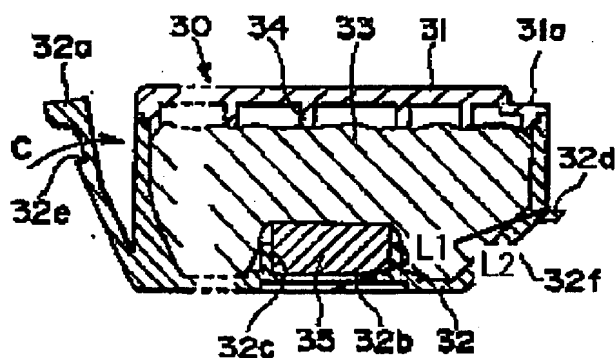
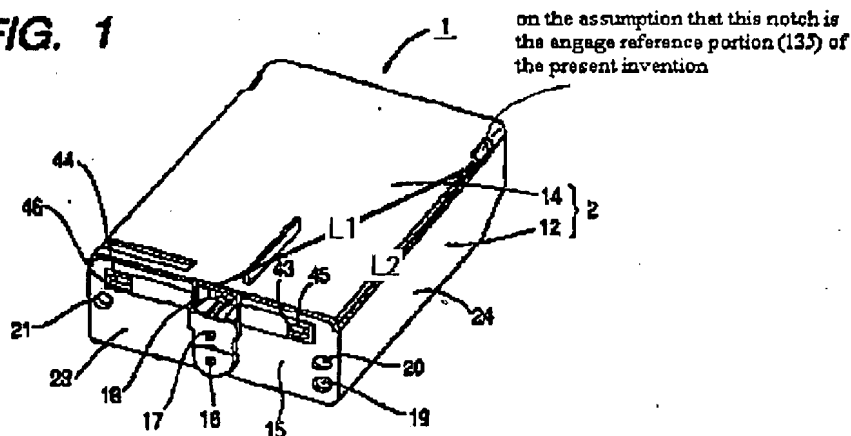


FIG. 14

Finally, with respect to Nakazawa, Figure 1 from Nakazawa is reproduced below, in which distances L1 and L2 have been added. From this figure, it is clear that the distances L1 and L2 have a relationship of $L1 > L2$, which is precisely opposite to the claimed relationship of $L1 < L2$:

FIG. 1



It is therefore respectfully submitted that the invention herein defines subject matter that is neither anticipated nor would have been obvious from any permissible combination of the applied Suzuki, Oda, Inoue or Nakazawa patents. Allowance of the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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